

Message

From: Siedschlag, Gregory [Siedschlag.Gregory@epa.gov]
Sent: 3/8/2021 11:10:26 PM
To: Messina, Edward [Messina.Edward@epa.gov]; Goodis, Michael [Goodis.Michael@epa.gov]; Layne, Arnold [Layne.Arnold@epa.gov]; Nesci, Kimberly [Nesci.Kimberly@epa.gov]; Anderson, Neil [Anderson.Neil@epa.gov]; Echeverria, Marietta [Echeverria.Marietta@epa.gov]; Aubee, Catherine [Aubee.Catherine@epa.gov]; Rosenblatt, Daniel [Rosenblatt.Dan@epa.gov]; Reaves, Elissa [Reaves.Elissa@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Pesticide Program Update: EPA Releases Testing Data Showing PFAS Contamination from Fluorinated Containers

Thanks Ed. I forwarded your note to Sandra to follow up. I'll let you know what I hear.

Greg Siedschlag

Chief, Communications Branch
Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Phone: (703) 603-9044
Cell: (571) 319-7949
pronouns: he/him/his

From: Messina, Edward <Messina.Edward@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2021 4:33 PM
To: Siedschlag, Gregory <Siedschlag.Gregory@epa.gov>; Goodis, Michael <Goodis.Michael@epa.gov>; Layne, Arnold <Layne.Arnold@epa.gov>; Nesci, Kimberly <Nesci.Kimberly@epa.gov>; Anderson, Neil <Anderson.Neil@epa.gov>; Echeverria, Marietta <Echeverria.Marietta@epa.gov>; Aubee, Catherine <Aubee.Catherine@epa.gov>; Rosenblatt, Daniel <Rosenblatt.Dan@epa.gov>; Reaves, Elissa <Reaves.Elissa@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Pesticide Program Update: EPA Releases Testing Data Showing PFAS Contamination from Fluorinated Containers

Thanks. If Gary is interested in putting some of this information on their website we can link to it in our Qs and As.

Ed

Ed Messina, Esq.
Acting Office Director
Office of Pesticide Programs
Office of Chemical Safety & Pollution Prevention
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Washington, D.C.
p: (703) 347-0209

From: Siedschlag, Gregory <Siedschlag.Gregory@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 8, 2021 4:19 PM
To: Messina, Edward <Messina.Edward@epa.gov>; Goodis, Michael <Goodis.Michael@epa.gov>; Layne, Arnold <Layne.Arnold@epa.gov>; Nesci, Kimberly <Nesci.Kimberly@epa.gov>; Anderson, Neil <Anderson.Neil@epa.gov>; Echeverria, Marietta <Echeverria.Marietta@epa.gov>; Aubee, Catherine <Aubee.Catherine@epa.gov>; Rosenblatt, Daniel <Rosenblatt.Dan@epa.gov>; Reaves, Elissa <Reaves.Elissa@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Pesticide Program Update: EPA Releases Testing Data Showing PFAS Contamination from Fluorinated Containers

FYI – see below.

Greg Siedschlag

Chief, Communications Branch
Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Phone: (703) 603-9044
Cell: (571) 319-7949
pronouns: he/him/his

From: O'Neill, Sandra <ONeill.Sandra@epa.gov>

Sent: Monday, March 08, 2021 3:20 PM

To: Mosby, Jackie <Mosby.Jackie@epa.gov>; Siedschlag, Gregory <Siedschlag.Gregory@epa.gov>

Cc: Picone, Kaitlin <Picone.Kaitlin@epa.gov>; Ozmen, Shamus <Ozmen.Shamus@epa.gov>; Lara, Rhina <Lara.Rhina@epa.gov>

Subject: FW: Pesticide Program Update: EPA Releases Testing Data Showing PFAS Contamination from Fluorinated Containers

Hi Jackie, Greg, and all

Hope you're all well. After last week's PFAS Press Release statement, Gary Bahr, Chair of the SFIREG Committee, sent the email below summarizing work they have contributed to the PFAS contamination issue. There's no ask in Gary's email, though we committed to sending this information as an FYI to senior managers. Jackie/Greg, please feel free to forward as you think appropriate. Looks like some in SFIREG are keeping close tabs on PFAS statements with an eye on state collaboration.

Thanks,

Sandra O'Neill
919 323 7926

From: Bahr, Gary (AGR) <GBahr@agr.wa.gov>

Sent: Sunday, March 7, 2021 9:46 PM

To: O'Neill, Sandra <ONeill.Sandra@epa.gov>

Cc: Picone, Kaitlin <Picone.Kaitlin@epa.gov>; Hopkins, Yvette <Hopkins.Yvette@epa.gov>; Reed, Leo A <reedla@purdue.edu>; Jones, Patrick <patrick.jones@ncagr.gov>; Rose Kachadoorian <rkachadoorian@oda.state.or.us>; Gretchen Paluch <gretchen.paluch@iowaagriculture.gov>; Megan Patterson <Megan.L.Patterson@maine.gov>; Liza Fleeson <Liza.Fleeson@vdacs.virginia.gov>; Cary Giguere <Cary.Giguere@vermont.gov>; Leach, Carrie A <leach13@purdue.edu>; Jeffrey Rogers <jeffrey.rogers@vdacs.virginia.gov>; Wijnja, Hotze (AGR) <hotze.wijnja@state.ma.us>; LaScola, Taryn (AGR) <taryn.lascola@mass.gov>; aapco.sfired <aapco.sfired@gmail.com>

Subject: FW: Pesticide Program Update: EPA Releases Testing Data Showing PFAS Contamination from Fluorinated Containers

Sandra,

Thank you for the Friday meeting on PFAS and fluorinated containers with EPA OPP and Acting Assistant Administrator Michal Freedhoff. We appreciate the extra EPA testing and the thoughtful approaches for the next steps. State lead agencies and SFIREG/JWC will be glad to continue to work with EPA on this important topic.

Friday was a busy day and later on in the day I read the press release below. I would like to point out the following statement in the press release, *"Since first becoming aware of the PFAS contamination issue in September 2020 through citizen science testing of a pesticide product, ..."*. While the citizen testing was certainly a very important component of this entire issue, there has been a great deal accomplished thanks to our SLAs and our SFIREG process. As SFIREG Chair, I would like to provide a general timeline of the actions by our dedicated SLA professionals, ranging from

full SFIREG to EQI, who worked hard to bring this topic forward and explore the science and potential regulatory issues with EPA. I offer this general time line of our activities for your review and use.

- June 1-2, 2020 - SFIREG Meeting - Region 1 SFIREG Representative Taryn LaScola (MA) provided the Region 1 SLA Pre-SFIREG Report from their May 2020 pre SFIREG meeting. Taryn brought the PFAS and pesticide product issue to the June 2020 Full SFIREG. Full SFIREG agreed to assign the topic to SFIREG EQI.
- June 1-2, 2020 - SFIREG Chair Gary Bahr (WA) assigned the PFAS topic to SFIREG EQI Chair Carrie Leach (IN) to have EQI work on the topic.
- Summer 2020 - SFIREG EQI discussed the PFAS topic on conference calls, and also the PFAS topic was discussed during calls with EPA OPP, as EQI prepared the agenda for the September 2020 JWC meeting.
- September 22, 2020 – SFIREG EQI session, Dr. Hotze Wijnja, Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources and EQI member, Presented at the SFIREG-POM/EQI Meeting September 22, 2020 <https://aapco.org/sept-2020-jwc-meeting/> https://aapco.files.wordpress.com/2020/11/pfas-and-water-quality-presentation-for-sfireg-pom_eqi-092220_.pdf. Also, some correspondence and an independent laboratory report was provided in the JWC and is located on the SFIREG JWC page from September 22, 2020: <https://aapco.org/sept-2020-jwc-meeting/>
- Fall work, and December 7-8, 2020 SFIREG meeting – During the SFIREG meeting and JWC EQI report, it was communicated that SFIREG and JWC continue to have discussions with EPA on this topic and also discuss laboratory testing coordination and potential future coordination between SLAs and the Ft. Meade Laboratory.
- January 13, 2021- EPA Assistant Administrators Alex Dunn and Susan Bodine held a meeting with SLAs and provided information on an announcement on EPA's efforts to address PFAS and new information associated with a pesticide product and its packaging.
- January to present, 2021 – AAPCO, SFIREG/EQI, EQI Chair Carrie Leach (IN) and the Laboratory Directors Liaison Eric Petty (CO) have worked on coordination related to federal and state laboratory testing science, coordination and support between EPA, EPA Fort Meade Laboratory, and SLAs.
- March 5, 2021 EPA meeting with AAPCO/SFIREG and SLAs on the PFAS topic, with the press release.

Thanks for reviewing our general timeline of activities on this topic, and we look forward to continuing our work to resolve these challenges for successful implementation of nationwide pesticide programs.

Thanks,

Gary

Gary Bahr
SFIREG Chair
Section Manager
Office of Director, Natural Resources Assessment
Washington State Department of Agriculture
Olympia, Washington
c-360-349-0522
gbahr@agr.wa.gov

From: U.S. EPA Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention <oppt.epa@public.govdelivery.com>

Sent: Friday, March 5, 2021 10:59 AM

To: Bahr, Gary (AGR) <GBahr@agr.wa.gov>

Subject: Pesticide Program Update: EPA Releases Testing Data Showing PFAS Contamination from Fluorinated Containers

EPA Releases Testing Data Showing PFAS Contamination from Fluorinated Containers

As the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) pursues its mission to protect human health and the environment, addressing risks related to PFAS is a priority. To this end, EPA is making available new testing data related to PFAS found in fluorinated containers in which a mosquito control product was packaged and sold. EPA is also announcing its planned next steps to further characterize and address this potential source of contamination.

“Advancing science and taking action to reduce the health risks associated with PFAS go hand-in-hand,” said **Acting Assistant Administrator for the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention Michal Freedhoff**. “The Biden-Harris Administration’s focus on developing and using the best available science will guide our decision-making, strengthen our work with stakeholders, and lead to pragmatic solutions that advance our efforts to address PFAS contamination and protect human health.”

Since first becoming aware of the PFAS contamination issue in September 2020 through citizen science testing of a pesticide product, EPA has been working to investigate the source of the contamination. In December 2020, EPA studied the fluorinated HDPE containers used to store and transport the product and preliminarily determined the fluorination process used may be the source of PFAS contamination.


In January 2021, EPA continued its testing which showed the PFAS were most likely formed from a chemical reaction during the container fluorination process which then leached into the pesticide product. After completing a robust quality assurance and quality control process, EPA can confirm that it has detected eight different PFAS from the fluorinated HDPE containers, with levels ranging from 20-50 parts per billion.

While EPA is early in its investigation, the agency will use all available regulatory and non-regulatory tools to determine the scope of this emerging issue and its potential impact on human health and the environment. It is important to note that although these types of products should not be a source of PFAS, the data indicates that the amount of PFAS that has entered the environment from the contamination in the containers the agency tested is extremely small. The agency is also committed to coordinating with the affected entities involved and their supply and distribution chains, pesticide users, the pesticide and packaging industry, and its federal, state, and tribal partners as it works through this complex health and environmental issue.

Building on the agency's initial actions announced in January 2021, EPA initiated a series of steps to tackle this issue including:

- On Jan. 13, 2021, to minimize risks to human health and the environment, EPA asked states with existing stock of the mosquito product distributed in fluorinated HDPE containers to discontinue use and hold that inventory until its final disposition is determined. The pesticide manufacturer has also notified all its customers regarding management of the product, voluntarily stopped shipments of all products in fluorinated HDPE containers, and is now using non-fluorinated containers.
- On Jan. 14, 2021, EPA issued a TSCA subpoena to the company that fluorinated the containers supplied to the manufacturer of the pesticide in which PFAS was discovered to learn more about the fluorination process used on the HDPE containers.
- EPA is aware that many companies are using fluorinated HDPE containers to store and distribute pesticide and other products. EPA is actively working with the Food and Drug Administration, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and industry and trade organizations to raise awareness of this emerging issue and discuss expectations of product stewardship. For example, EPA is coordinating with the Ag Container Recycling Council, the American Chemistry Council, Crop Life America, the Household & Commercial Products Association, and the National Pest Management Association.
- The agency is also testing different brands of fluorinated containers to determine whether they contain and/or leach PFAS, and if so, learn the conditions affecting leaching. EPA will present these findings as expeditiously as possible.
- The agency is encouraging the pesticide industry to explore alternative packaging options, like steel drums or non-fluorinated HDPE.

To view the data and learn more, visit: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/pfas-packaging>

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